

Dear Phil,

5/21/82

Your letter of the 17th and page 27 of your notes interest me for a number of reasons, one being that for all the time I spent with him, and it was a considerable amount of time, those are matters Ray never mentioned to me or, to the best of my recollection, until the end of I think 1973, when he was terrified over imminent transfer to a federal prison. I have no reason to believe that any of it both true and pertinent, none is at all new. Some does not stack. Yet I also have to say that I believe that Ray lied to me but little. Instead he avoided response of simply said it was something he didn't want to talk about.

Your notes quote Ray as saying that "he" investigated. Not possible. He used others, some very dubious and all of the right extreme. He trusted them with what he would not trust me.

There were anti-Semitic overtones to his first Rosenson story and when it was checked out by good reporters it was not what he said. He told you only that he found the name on a "card" he found in his car. The rest of the story, none of it told to me, is that he was checking his car because he was going to cross the Mexican border on his way to L.A. He first identified this card as that of an agency that did not exist at that time. Jerry also told me about this and that he had had several xroxes of it made and stashed away. I've never seen it and can't account for its existence in Ray's possession to give to Jerry. It is not inventoried in any of the records I've gotten and I've gotten a list of his property as of the time the English turned him over to the FBI. I'm not saying it is entirely impossible, only that I have no reason to believe it.

I don't remember that he gave me the name Graiver (His spelling is not dependable) but he did tell me of meeting with Raoul and another man in Nuevo Laredo in 10/67. I believe something like it happened. I believe that he did smuggle something into Mexico and do not believe it was drugs. Or jewelry.

I am not sure but it is possible he told me he suspected he was being watched in Memphis before the crime. I do not recall it. I do recall his telling me that another man was with Raoul in the flophouse. I do not have any recollection of his mentioning a Latin type in the Hernandez connection and I think I would have.

Given his dedication to ~~secret~~ omerta I'm inclined to believe that he'd not provide any real names or real clues but would do whatever he believes might be useful. Based on my experiences with him I'd not be inclined to trust his judgement on what could be useful. Remember, he had a chance to benefit from talking and he refused. If he would not in 1968 or 1969 or 1970, why would he not long thereafter, after conviction?

I am convinced that he can identify other associates and has not.

Looking back on all he told me before the evidentiary hearing I can think of nothing he told me that was really useful. He had days on end in which he could have. He refused to tell me the phone numbers he used, yet he told Foreman and Hanes, and at least Foreman told others, He did not say he did not remember them. The New Orleans number(s) could have been useful He told Stoner, and Stoner told me I'd get killed. He would not tell me. They had a disbarred Chattanooga judge named Schoolfield do that checking.

He seems to have convinced himself that his best shot is in trying to make it believed that there was a federal government connection with the assassination. I do not believe it and have no reason to believe that he does, either. He knows that if he fingers those who could have been connected he won't live long. I am without doubt that he can. Maybe not by correct names, but by identifiers.

I don't expect to use any of this in my own writing but I am interested in it if you ever get any clues or confirmations. Thanks and best wishes,